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September 23, 2020

W2015C0008

Nathan Sims
Benton Resources Inc.
684 Squier Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A8

Sent via email

Dear Nathen Sims,

RE: Land Use Permit W2015C0008 Extension Request

The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB or the Board) met on September 23, 2020 and considered Benton Resources Inc.'s extension request for Land Use Permit W2015C0008 (the Permit).¹ As detailed in the attached Reasons for Decision, the WLWB had decided to approve the extension for a period of two years.

Two Administrative changes were made to the Permit. These administrative changes included updates to the phone numbers listed for the GNWT Lands Inspector (see condition 4 and 34) and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center (see condition 34). These changes have been reflected in the Permit.²

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Mackenzie".

Joe Mackenzie
Chair, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

Copied to: Wek'èezhìi East Distribution List

¹ See WLWB (www.wlwb.ca) Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project - Extension Request - Sep 14 20](#)

² See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project - Land Use Permit - Sep 23 20](#)



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Reasons for Decision

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Reference/File Number: | W2015C0008 (Type "A" Land Use Permit) |
| Licensee: | Benton Resources Inc. |
| Subject: | Extension request to Land Use Permit W2015C0008 |

Decision from the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board Meeting of September 23, 2020

1.0 Decision

On September 23, 2020, the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (the Board) met to consider a request by Benton Resources Inc. for the approval of an extension to Land Use Permit W2015C0008. The Board has approved a two-year extension to Benton Resources Inc. (Benton Resources) for Land Use Permit W2015C0008.

2.0 Background

The WLWB issued Land Use Permit W2015C0008 to Platinum Group Metals Ltd., commencing on September 24, 2015 and expiring September 23, 2020.¹ On May 11, 2016, Platinum Group Metals Ltd. applied to assign Permit W2015C0008 to Benton Resources Inc. The WLWB approved the assignment of this Permit from Platinum Group Metals Ltd. to Benton Resources Inc. on June 9, 2016.²

Land Use Permit W2015C0008 allows Benton Resources to conduct the following activities at the Providence and Credit Lake areas, NT:

- Use of a campsite;
- Establishment of petroleum fuel storage facilities;
- Mineral exploration including, diamond drilling, rock and till sampling, ground mapping, and ground and airborne geophysical surveys; and
- Use of equipment, vehicles and machines to support operations.

¹ See WLWB (www.wlwb.ca) Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Land Use Permit – Type A – Sep 24 15](#)

² See WLWB Online Registry for Providence Lake [Project – Land Use Permit – Assignment Approved – Jun 9 16](#)

On September 14, 2020, Benton Resources submitted an extension request to the WLWB to allow for camp removal and clean-up of the site as exploration activities have been completed.^{3,4} The complete extension request was distributed for public review on September 14, 2020 using the Online Review System (ORS). Reviewers were asked to provide recommendations by September 21, 2020, and proponent responses were due by September 22, 2020. Comments were received from the Government of Northwest Territories – Lands – North Slave Region (GNWT-Lands) and the Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG). The GNWT Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (GNWT-ENR-EAM) and the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) indicated they had no comments or recommendations at this time. Reviewer recommendations and proponent responses are available on the WLWB Online Registry.⁵

3.0 Reasons for Decision

3.1 Eligibility

The Board notes that Benton Resources mineral claims have expired. In an email dated September 17, 2020, the landowner (GNWT-Lands) was asked to indicate in writing whether they believe the eligibility requirements as set out in Section 18 of the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations* (MVLUR) had been satisfied.⁶ The GNWT Lands Inspector responded that the Permittee has eligibility to complete their land use operation in the Providence Lake area. The GNWT-Lands Inspector further stated that for Benton Resources to meet the requirements of the Land Use Permit and Sections 15 and 16 of the MVLUR, GNWT-Lands supports an extension to the Permit. The Board is satisfied that this confirms eligibility for Benton Resources extension request.

3.2 Public Review

During the public review, GNWT-Lands reviewed the extension request and recommended that the Permittee seek a two-year extension request rather than a one-year extension (GNWT-Lands comment 1). The recommendation was based on unforeseen circumstances that may arise due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Benton Resources responded that they would like a two-year extension to complete the clean-up of the Credit Lake Camp and that a fuel clean-up has been initiated and will commence September 24, 2020 and that the remaining camp clean-up will occur the summer of 2021.

The TG commented that Benton Resources has requested a one-year extension and that the current COVID-19 restrictions have made it impossible to finish the camp take out and site clean-up before the expiration of the Permit (TG comment 1). The TG also commented that Benton Resources did not include the scope of clean-up they plan to conduct within the one-year extension or how they intend to complete the work with the current COVID-19 restrictions. The TG has no concern regarding the extension of the Permit but recommended that Benton Resources have a well-developed plan for the clean-up to ensure it is completed within the extension time frame without compromising the environmental clean-up

³ See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Extension Request – Sep 14 20](#)

⁴ See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Engagement Record – Sep 14 20](#)

⁵ See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Extension Request – Review Summary and Attachments – Sep 22 20](#)

⁶ See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Extension Request – GNWT Lands Inspector Confirms Eligibility – Sep 17 20](#)

requirements and conditions. Benton Resources responded that it would like a two-year extension to allow for additional time should further COVID-19 restrictions be imposed. Benton Resources also stated that they have engaged with a contractor to start removing the fuel drums and remediate any contaminated soils and expect this work to start on September 24, 2020. Additionally, the remaining camp structures and materials will be removed next summer near the beginning of July. Benton Resources indicated they will continue communicating with the Inspector to ensure that Benton Resources is following protocols.

Benton Resources was contacted via email on September 16, 2020 to ask if they would be agreeable to a two-year extension to the Permit.⁷ Benton Resources responded on September 22, 2020 stating they would like a two-year extension because a longer extension would allow for complete clean-up of the site in case additional unforeseen circumstances are experienced during clean-up. Given the potential for further restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, that the Board may extend the term of the permit for an additional period not exceeding two years, and that the Permittee is agreeable to a two-year extension, the Board agrees with reviewer recommendations that issuing a two-year extension would be preferable.

The Board also notes that administrative updates were required for conditions 4 and 34 of the Permit. The administrative changes include updates to the phone numbers listed for the GNWT Lands Inspector and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Conditions 4 and 34 were updated to reflect the updated phone numbers of the Permit.

Based on the review, the Board has decided to approve Benton Resources Inc.'s extension request for Land Use Permit W2015C0008 for a period of two years.

- ***Decision #1: The Board has decided to approve Benton Resources Inc.'s extension request for Land Use Permit W2015C0008 for a period of two years.***

Signed the 23 Day of September, 2020, on behalf of the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board



Witness



Joe Mackenzie
Chair, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

⁷ See WLWB Online Registry for [Providence Lake Project – Extension Request – Review Summary and Attachments – Sep 22 20](#)